

- 42 -

MODULATED ACOUSTIC AGGLOMERATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT

An acoustic agglomerator for agglomerating
5 constituents in a fluid is provided. The acoustic
agglomerator includes an area containing a fluid having
constituents and an acoustic generator operable to generate
a modulated acoustic field to enhance agglomeration of the
constituents in the fluid. In one aspect the acoustic
10 field is frequency modulated and in other aspects the
acoustic field is amplitude modulated, while yet in other
aspects the acoustic field is both frequency and amplitude
modulated. A method for agglomerating constituents in a
fluid is also provided. The method includes providing a
15 fluid with a constituent and applying an acoustic field to
the fluid. The method provides for modulating the acoustic
field to cause the constituent to agglomerate.